Dies' New Act Gets Preview

Japanese-Americans Are the Villains, But Show Lacks a Plot

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PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 24.—After a long absence from the local stage, the Dies Committee will put on a new performance here next week. The villains will be Americans of Japanese descent, Communists, officials of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) and Harold L. Ickes. At a preview for the press given by Dies yesterday it appeared that the show will have everything except a plot.

With Robert Stripling, slender, fidgety Committee secretary, whispering strange somethings into his ear throughout the session, Dies unfolded the high points of the coming hearings. It all will be a sequel to recent charges by Stripling that thousands of Japanese "saboteurs and subversives" have been released from relocation centers by WRA.

What Dies Didn't

The script for the show will be based on files of the Japanese-American League seized by Dies agents, he announced. These files, he said, show close communication between WRA officials and representatives of the League. But what all this proves remained a little vague after 45 minutes with Mr. Dies. Under questioning Dies:

¶ Produced no proof that the Japanese-American League was subversive. In fact it was the one organization of Japanese-Americans to co-operate with Government officials in the evacuation program.

¶ Gave no evidence that any of the Japanese released by WRA have engaged in any subversive activity.

At first Dies contended that some of the Japanese were responsible for inciting recent race clashes. But when pressed to name names he could name only one (and couldn't pronounce it). That man, he said, had been fomenting race hatred in Detroit in 1933. Asked for more recent exhibits, Mr. Dies said:

"I have none that I would like to bring out before the hearings."

Spankings Are Due

Another phase of the hearings will feature the three Japanese-Americans recently hired by Ickes to work on his Maryland farm. Mr. Dies said they might be called to the stand. He said he had no evidence indicating that the three were subversive.

Justice and War Depts. officials, as well as WRA heads, will be spanked in the course of the new hearings, Dies hinted, but he omitted the details.

Toward the end, when the reporters started really despairing of headlines, somebody asked whether Communists were involved in the Japanese-American League. Dies replied promptly that "we have found evidence of Communist infiltration" and seemed pleased at the astuteness of the question.